

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, and a closed lower end, ~~and an interior space when opened, the base portion initially constructed to have a flat condition and having the flat condition prior to being opened for receiving the pot into the interior space and having a tapered shape when in the flat condition;~~

a skirt portion extending from the upper end of the base portion;
and

a plurality of substantially unconnected, vertically oriented, expandable folds in the base portion, and wherein the preformed sleeve is initially constructed to have a flattened condition, and the preformed sleeve having a tubular shape in the flattened condition, and having an inner retaining space when opened from the flattened condition and wherein when the pot is disposed within the interior inner retaining space of the base portion preformed sleeve, the expandable

fold in the base portion expand to cause the base portion to cover and surround the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

2. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further comprising an upper portion extending from the skirt portion and detachable therefrom via a detaching element therein.

3. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils.

4. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mils.

5. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 1 mil to about 5 mils.

6. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of

treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

7. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the plurality of expandable folds are selected from the group consisting of pleats, folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or accordion-type folds.

8. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a portion for serving as a handle or support device.

9. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the base portion has a drainage hole.

10. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the plurality of folds are continuous between the base portion and the skirt portion.

11. (Previously Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

a lower portion having an upper end, and a lower end having a bottom, ~~and an interior space when opened, the lower~~

portion initially having a flat condition prior to being opened for receiving the pot into the interior space and the lower portion having a tapered shape ~~when in the flat condition~~;
an upper portion extending from the lower portion and which is detachable therefrom via a detaching element; and
a plurality of substantially unconnected vertically oriented, expandable folds in the lower portion and wherein the preformed sleeve is initially constructed to have a flattened condition, and the preformed sleeve having a tubular shape in the flattened condition, and having an inner retaining space when opened from the flattened condition and wherein when the pot is disposed within the ~~interior~~ inner retaining space of the lower portion preformed sleeve, the expandable folds in the lower portion expand to cause the ~~base~~ lower portion to cover and surround at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

13. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 wherein the upper portion is further defined as being sized to substantially surround and enclose a floral grouping disposed within the pot.

14. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils.

15. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

16. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 wherein the extendable folds are selected from the group consisting of pleats, folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or accordion-type folds.

17. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 further comprising a portion for serving as a handle or support device.

18. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 wherein the lower portion has a drainage hole.

19. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 wherein the plurality of extendable folds are continuous.

20. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 12 wherein the bottom of the lower end of the lower portion is closed.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a preformed sleeve comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, and a closed lower end, ~~and~~

~~an interior space when opened, the base portion initially having a flat condition prior to being opened for receiving the pot into the interior space and having a tapered shape when in the flat condition,~~

a skirt portion extending from the upper end of the base portion, and

a plurality of substantially unconnected, vertically oriented, expandable folds in the base portion and wherein the preformed sleeve is initially constructed to have a flattened condition, and the preformed sleeve having a tubular shape in the flattened condition, and having an inner retaining space when opened from the flattened condition ; and

disposing the pot into the interior inner retaining space of the base portion preformed sleeve causing the expandable folds in the

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base portion to expand to cause the base portion to cover and surround at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein in the step of providing a preformed sleeve, the preformed sleeve further comprises an upper portion extending from the skirt portion and which is detachable therefrom via a detaching element.

23. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein in the step of providing a preformed sleeve the plurality of expandable folds are continuous between the base portion and the skirt portion.

24. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve the upper portion is sized to substantially surround and enclose a floral grouping disposed within the pot.

Claims 25-30 (Previously Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, and a closed lower end, ~~and~~
~~an interior space when opened, the base portion initially~~
~~constructed to have a flat condition and having the having a~~
~~flat condition prior to being opened for receiving the pot into~~
~~the interior space and having a tapered shape when in the~~
~~flat condition; and~~

a plurality of substantially unconnected, vertically oriented,
expandable folds in the base portion and wherein the
preformed sleeve is initially constructed to have a flattened
condition, and the preformed sleeve having a tubular shape
in the flattened condition, and having an inner retaining
space when opened from the flattened condition.

32. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 31 further comprising an upper portion detachable via a detaching element.

33. (Previously Amended) The preformed sleeve of claim 31 wherein the plurality of expandable folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality

of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

34. (Previously Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a preformed sleeve comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, and a closed lower end
~~, and an interior space when opened, the base portion~~
~~initially having a flat condition prior to being opened for~~
~~receiving the pot into the interior space and having a~~
~~tapered shape when in the flat condition; and~~

a plurality of substantially unconnected, vertically oriented,
expandable folds in the base portion and wherein the
preformed sleeve is initially constructed to have a
flattened condition, and the preformed sleeve having
a tubular shape in the flattened condition, and having
an inner retaining space when opened from the
flattened condition ; and

disposing the pot into the ~~interior~~ inner retaining space of the ~~base~~
~~portion of the~~ preformed sleeve wherein the base portion
covers and surrounds at least a portion of the outer
peripheral surface of the pot.

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36. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein in the step
of providing the preformed sleeve, the preformed sleeve further comprises an
upper portion detachable via a detaching element in the preformed sleeve.
